FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COORDINATING BUREAU OPENS SESSIONS IN HAVANA

FL151754Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] The sixth meeting of the nonalined movement's Coordinating Bureau has opened with more than 20 representatives of member countries as well as observers from invited countries attending. At the proposal of the Sri Lanka ambassador, Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations, was elected to chair the meeting, which is being held in the Habana Libre Hotel in Havana City.

Raul Roa Kouri expressed the most cordial welcome to all representatives of Coordinating Bureau member countries and to the observers who are attending the meeting. He added: [begin Roa recording] For the Government of Cuba and all of us, it is a source of real gratification that this meeting is being held in Havana City. Obviously, for the Cuban side it has been a real tour de force to organize this meeting within the little time available. We believe that we have cre ted the best possible conditions for a successful meeting and, of course, we beg your pardon beforehand for any inconvenience or technical difficulty that might exist as a result of the haste in which this meeting was organized. [end recording]

Lastly, the Cuban representative said: [begin Roa recording] In giving you all the most cordial welcome to Cuba, we hope not only that the work of this initial meeting of ambassadors preceding the meeting of nonalined countries ministers will be productive and will mark a new milestone for the development of the work of the nonalined movement, but also that you can enjoy the hospitality and affection of the Cuban people and their leaders and, of course, our beaches and sunshine. [end recording]

Experts Reach Agreements

FL152257Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] The sixth meeting of experts of the nonalined movement Coordinating Bureau has reached important agreements concerning the ministerial-level meeting which opens in this capital on Thursday.

The first working session was chaired by Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Raul Roa Kouri. It was decided, at the recommendation of his Sri Lankan counterpart B.J. Fernando, that the composition of the ministerial-level meeting's chairmanship be assigned according to geographic distribution and in keeping with the traditional composition of the nonlined countries. Latin America will be responsible for the chairmanship while Africa, Asia and Europe will hold the deputies chairmanship in keeping with the approved recommendation. It was also agreed that Sri Lanka will be responsible for the general chairmanship because of its position as chairman of the nonalined movement and that Latin America will be the reporter of the ministerial-level meeting.

The sixth meeting of experts of the nonalined movement Coordinating Bureau also agreed that one plenum and two committees--one in charge of political issues and the other of economic issues--will be in charge of the ministerial deliberations. Another agreement reached by the experts is that the chairmanship will fall on a Latin American bureau member and that the deputies chairmanship will be covered by Africa, Asia and Latin America.

An examination of the draft final communique and other documents were included in the proposal for adoption of the ministerial-level meeting agenda.

It was learned that at the sixth meeting of experts of the nonalined movement Coordinating Bureau Cuba recommended the creation of three informal groups which would meet until the start of the ministerial-level meeting on Thursday. The three informal groups will take care of political and economic aspects and of the work preparatory to the foreign ministers conference in Belgrade in July. These three groups will be open to all member countries of the nonalined movement.

The representatives of Chad, Syria, Zambia, Zaire, Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia, India, Morocco, Mauritania, Peru, Niger, Nigeria, Algeria and Botswana spoke during today's first session. All of them expressed gratitude for this country's hospitality and optimum organization of the meeting in such a brief period of time. The 25 member countries of the Coordinating Bureau have confirmed their attendance while 16 countries have confirmed their participation as observers [presumably in the ministerial meeting].

Indian Delegate's Address

BK161002Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 May 78 BK

[Text] India has affirmed its stand on genuine nonalinement on the opening day of the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonalined countries in Havana yesterday. In his opening statement, Mr Rikhi Jaipal, India's ambassador at the United Nations, said it is enevitable that there will be differences of opinion among the member countries as those countries profess diverse ideologies.

Mr Jaipal streassed the importance of consolidating the unity of the nonalined movement.

BOLIVIAN ARMY COMMANDER ARRIVES, MAY BUY WEAPONS

PY160225Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] The commander of the Bolivian Army, Gen Alfonso Villalpando Armasa, arrived in Buenos Aires today for a 6-day official visit.

According to his agenda, General Villalpando will be familiarized with Argentina's military potential and the manufacturing of war materiel. General Villapando, who was invited by Gen Jorge Rafael Videla as commander of the Argentine Army, said before he left Bolivia that he will discuss with his Argentine colleagues the possibility of purchasing Argentine weapons.

According to Argentine reports, General Villapando denied before he left Bolivia that his trip to Buenos Aires has any relation with the Argentine military maneuvers on the border with Chile. He confirmed, however, the possibility of purchasing Argentine weapons. In this regard he said that the purchase will depend on the good will of Argentine officials.

HERALD CRITICIZES U.S. TARIFF POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA

PY121754Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 12 May 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "U.S. Myopia"]

[Text] The United States, which maintains many tariff and non-tariff barriers against Latin American products, on Tuesday warned Brazil that its protectionist polices and export promotion schemes could result in U.S. retaliation. The message, relayed by Mr Fred Bergsten, a high-ranking U.S. Treasury official, was unofficial--coming in a speech to the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce--but it was threatening enough. It will also have been heard by other governments in Latin America.

Washington's threat did not result from any enthusiasm for free trade as such, or even for free trade between North America and Latin America. It was a response to pressures from labour unions and lobbyists representing decaying, labour-intensive industries. For these fundamentally reactionary groups the competition of imports from developing countries like Brazil--and Uruguay, and Argentina, and Mexico, etc--is "unfair" because it has the benefit of low wages and because for some products the governments of the countries concerned provide subsidies or special exchange rates, which amount to the same thing.

Like the governments of other Western countries, the U.S. administration claims it wants to help less developed countries make economic progress. Clearly, the best way of doing this would be to throw open its frontiers to the low-technology manufactured products, or the farm products, of these countries.

The great gap between rhetoric about helping the worse off by "trade not aid" and all that, and the habit of treating struggling developing countries in Latin America as though they were formidable competitors like Japan or West Germany, does not speak well for the vision of the leaders of the world's most powerful country. It speaks even less well for their ethics. The U.S., after all, is ostensibly doing its best to herd the countries of Latin America faster along the road to U.S.-style democracy. It is even using its power in international credit agencies to this end.

But surely it must be recognized in Washington that one of the principal factors behind Latin America's political plight is the huge gulf between the economic expectations of the population and the ability of the economies of the region to satisfy them. Speeding up Latin America's development by encouraging, not discouraging, its efforts to export more would be a far more effective way of speeding the advent of democracy than preaching sermons or depriving governments of World Bank loans. It would, however, demand some political courage and some farsightedness in Washington. Perhaps that is the trouble.

CNEA, NEUQUEN PROVINCE MAKE FINAL HEAVY WATER PLANS

PY111909Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1542 GMT 11 May 78 PY

[Text] Neuquen, 11 May--Officials of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] have arrived in Neuquen to discuss the construction of a heavy water plant in this province. The visitors are Enrique Soto; Capt Alberto Ballester, chief of the instruments workshop of the navy's hydrographic service; Alejandro Perez of the same office; and Miquel Areda.

The trip's purpose is to finalize some details of the agreement signed 20 days ago by CNEA and the Neuquen provincial government. The agreement provides for obtaining meteorological and hydrological data necessary for the design and installation of the heavy water production plant, to be built in Arroyito, 50 km southwest of this capital.

The agreement specifies that each month the province will take a water sample from the center of the Arroyito reservoir, conduct a chemical analysis, and send the results of the commission along with 1,000 cc of the same sample for isotopic analysis.

The province is also to build an (?access route) to the meteorological tower and a rural-type line for its electrical supply. This is in addition to conducting operations at the tower which include instrument readings and equipment maintenance.

The CNEA is contributing the tower's assembly and putting it in working order. It will also prepare the land, provide the enclosing wire fence and the electrical supply booth. The CNEA is to contribute necessary technical assistance, including the supply of elements necessary to the tower's operations.

BRIEFS

EXPORT OF CATTLE AUTHORIZED--Under a proposal of the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat, the National Economy Ministry has issued Resolution No 550 authorizing the export to Paraguay of up to 15,000 cattle for slaughtering. This measure was taken because of the excess supply in Formosa, which is particularly serious for the Formosa economy, which relies mainly on cattle grazing. The resolution states that the authorized export is effective from 26 April to 31 July 1978. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 4 May 78 PY]

NEGATIVE BALANCE WITH FRANCE--Buenos Aires, 8 May--According to French exporters residing in Argentina, the French-Argentine trade balance for 1977 amounted to just 0.33 percent of France's foreign trade. According to this report, Argentina is France's fourth major buyer and second major supplier in Latin America. According to the same report, Argentine exports to France covered only 63.3 percent of its imports from the same country. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1149 GMT 8 May 78 PY]

JIMENEZ DENIES OFFICIAL PARTIALITY FOR PEREDA

PY130331Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 78 PY

[Text] The high-ranking officers who expressed their support for the candidacy of Juan Pereda did so on their own like any other Bolivian citizens, without this indicating any involvement of the institution itself. This statement was made today by Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo in response to journalists' questions. He also said that this support had been stated at a fraternity meeting.

[begin Jimenez Gallo recording] The members of the Bolivian police are average citizens like anybody else and therefore they are bound to have their preferences and can express their friendship and their appreciation for a man who happens to be one of the candidates for the presidency. In this I do not see an attitude which differs from that of the average citizen. [end recording]

The interior minister also spoke about the reports he is constantly receiving from political parties that the Electoral Court is showing its preference for one of the candidates. Asked whether the Interior Ministry has any relationship with the Electoral Court, the minister stated:

[begin Jimenez Gallo recording] Look, the National Electoral Court is a new body, created in the country in order to carry out the electoral process and the democratization of the government branches of the nation.

As you well know, the Electoral Court is made up of a president and representatives of the executive and legislative branches and the political parties. Among them is a representative of the executive branch which is the liaison officer of the executive branch. The political parties must submit to this court all the grievances which they may stumble upon in the course of this important nationwide event. [end recording]

The interior minister believes that the Electoral Court is fully empowered to see that the constitutionalization process is fulfilled in line with the regulation of the electoral law currently in effect.

He reasserted that his ministry does not interfere with the Electoral Court, which is totally autonomous. He said, however, that there is a relationship because the Interior Ministry has been instructed to see that the elections are carried out this year.

The interior minister reasserted that he does not interfere with the Electoral Court and denied that there had been a meeting between himself and the faction of the National Revolutionary Movement led by Ruben Julio.

FSB'S GUTIERREZ DECRIES MILITARY ROLE IN POLITICS

PY130246Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 May 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Cochabamba, 9 May--The armed forces belong to the nation; they neither can nor should sponsor a candidate of their own; and the same applies to the government because it is an armed forces government. The armed forces must not and legally are not authorized to take sides. These remarks were made b Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez, during his participation in the "Press, Politics and The Nation"series of lectures sponsored by the Union of Press Workers of Cochabamba.

The leader of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] strongly criticized the official policy and the attitude of the armed forces toward the electoral process and forecast that their candidate will be defeated in all cities, that he will be defeated in the provincial capitals and in more than a few districts where chicanery or force will be to no avail.

At the beginning of his lecture and talking about the political force of the government, Gutierrez stated that it is made up of branches which have broken off from the large party trees, that "a suit made of scraps of material of different colors smells of hippies, and in the same way a front made up of dissidents from the causes of their own parties is incapable of awakening the confidence of the people, but rather awakens in them the suspicion that such a weak and despicable political organization is being used to build up a dictatorship."

Gutierrez also spoke of the future government and stated that everything seems to point out that the congress that is being sought is the kind which would endorse objectives which are not in keeping with democracy, the economic and financial health of the nation, the institutional system and the dignified and sovereign attitude which Bolivia must assume on the centennial of the usurpation of its Pacific coast by the Chileans.

In criticizing the armed forces, the leader of the FSB asked: "Why are the armed forces trying to share with the political parties a constitutional right which belongs to the latter alone; that is, the right to participate in an election for public jobs? Since the armed forces are not registered at the Electoral Court as political parties, why are they taking over functions and assuming rights which do not belong to them?"

He went on to emphasize that the armed forces have no place in an election. The armed forces must work for the appreciation and affection of their countrymen and the nation. We Bolivians are part of the armed forces and they belong to all of us. They should not become the target of criticism which becomes severe in the heat of struggle. They should not endorse a candidate which is dividing them rather than uniting them.

Gutierrez went on to state that the fact that the National Electoral Court has "stolen the name of the FSB" and given it to a group of dissidents is a national scandal. He said that this court is legally and morally incapable of presiding over the current electoral process. In conclusion he mentioned some of his party's decisions, among which is the proclamation of Col Jose Patino Ayoroa as candidate for the presidency of the nation.

CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZED BY EL DIARIO

PY131505Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 May 78 p 2 PY

[Article by Fernando Diez de Medina: "The Incorrect Positions of the Brandnew Chilean Foreign Minister"]

[Text] The new Chilean Foreign Minister, Hernan Cubillos--don't mistake him for Cubillas, the great Peruvian soccer player--entered diplomacy by making insolent and aggressive remarks against Bolivia.

He wrongly assumed that he was putting his best foot forward.

His attitude shows that he is unaware of the historic moment through which the civilized world is passing. This is no longer the time before World War I when the kaiser's handlebar mustache, the high-pointed Prussian helmet and the cynical language of a Koenig would not be feared at the hemispheric level.

Foreign Minister Cubillos stated:

--That Chile does not accept pressure to solve Bolivia's landlocked situation;

--That Chile has no pending border issues with Bolivia;

--That Bolivia has no right to claim an outlet to the sea;

--That the Chilean proposal failed because of Bolivia;

--That treaties cannot be amended, so Chile does not accept revision of the 1904 treaty.

These conclusions are clearly false, as we will proceed to show:

1. International justice is not expressed through "pressure," but through broad and increasing currents of opinion. World conscience, continental will, a feeling of solidarity and justice will sooner or later force the usurper to give back at least part of what he takes through war or conquest. Bilateral agreement is impossible--this has already been shown--because Chile is always acting in bad faith. A natural right to an outlet to the sea, history, geography, the biological need to survive, the integration of the continent, the South American equilibrium and the will for justice of the nations of the world will unquestionably return the Pacific to us.

2. Chile has something more than pending border issues with Bolivia. It owes us for a huge 150,000-square km area of coastal land and 400 km of coastline, the use of our wealth for 100 years and the irreparable damage caused by the fratricidal landlocked situation, plus the geographical aggression in the Lauca issue, which has not yet been solved.

3. Denying us our right to return to the Pacific is like denying that there is a sun. This inherent right is recognized by all nations in the world. It has become an American cause. And it will grow day by day as a threatening ghost in the Chilean conscience, if Chile has a conscience. As my father, Eduardo Diez de Medina, stated, the Bolivian right to demand reintegration with the sea stems from South American freedom and is supported by justice.

4. The recent Chilean offer failed because it was mean and excessively harsh: mean regarding what it offered and harsh regarding compensation--as if compensation could be negotiated between an attacker and his defenseless victim.

5. The belief that treaties cannot be amended is a 19th century belief. The very recent example of the United States and Panama shows that nations now can and must revise treaties, pacts or agreements when they are not just and appropriate for the signatories. This is precisely the case with Bolivia and Chile. The unjust 1879 dismemberment of our territory, consolidated by a treaty which was forced on us and collared us with customs duties, is null by any law. Bolivia is perfectly right to demand revision of the 1904 treaty, an issue on which the world's conscience will back Bolivia.

In conclusion: How can Foreign Minister Cubillos speak of "aggressive statements," when the only aggressor in South America is Chile--as proved by the fact that this country is being pressured from the north, the center and the south of its territory, parts of which have been illegally added to its skinny geography?

We may even ask: Does Chile have reason to exist as a nation if half its present territory--our coast and the entire Province of Tarapaca--belongs to Bolivia and Peru? And its advance in the Beagle area, isn't this further proof of its territorial voraciousness?

Foreign Minister Cubillos' outspoken remarks are out of place. They do not frighten or create concern. There is a growing awareness among the people of the Americas which is gradually becoming stronger and is closing in like a ring of fire around the usurper.

This is not the time for noisy language or Prussian attitudes. No Bismarck or Pinochet. Chile needs morally healthy international statesmen, broadminded and clever, who can understand that the warlike and provocative attitude of 1904 can no longer be used in 1978.

This first slip by the new Chilean foreign minister is regrettable. The next slip will be over a banana peel.

FOREIGN COMPANIES SHOW INTEREST IN NEW STEEL INDUSTRY

PY121855Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1604 GMT 12 May 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 12 May--It was reported here today that some 47 international companies are interested in granting large loans to the new national steel industry. The state steel enterprise is now analyzing proposals presented by the companies.

The national steel company will become a reality in early 1979, to exploit the major iron and manganese reserves at Mutun, near the Brazilian border.

FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES ACTIVELY SEEKING DEPOSITS

PY131928Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 78 PY

[Text] Multinational oil enterprises are fully engaged in intensifying their exploration for oil, [production of] which, according to official announcements, is declining.

These enterprises are intensifying their exploration in the Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Tarija Departments. It has been disclosed that the Occidental Petroleum Company, for example, has completed the drilling of well Beta 15, which yielded positive results. The company is now involved in drilling well Beta 16.

Furthermore, it was noted that the national oil enterprise has signed a new contract with Occidental Petroleum Company concerning exploration in the Chaco area, the region south of Santa Cruz.

GENERAL BENTES REPORTED TO BE MDB PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY151904Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May 78 p 4 PY

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Excerpt] Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro has given his approval for the submission of his name as presidential candidate for the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement], authorizing the MDB grassroots organization to mobilize around his candidacy, by sending telegrams to Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, MDB president. The first telegram arrived in MDB national headquarters bearing the signature of Jose Vicenti Fauzi, president of the municipal directorate of Ibiuna. This mobilization in the state of Sao Paulo is being coordinated by state MDB assemblyman Gustavo Korte, who yesterday revealed that he had been authorized by Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro to announce that the general had accepted his proposed candidacy. Gen Hugo Abreu, former chief of the military cabinet of the presidency and the main promoter of this alternate military presidential candidate, did not confirm the acceptance by General Bentes Monteiro, although they had met in Rio de Janeiro a few days ago. However, persons close to the former military cabinet chief commented that the candidacy of General Bentes Monteiro was a very good one, although the search for an alternate candidate centered on a general in active service. They added that if General Bentes Monteiro were not available Gen Hugo Abreu would consent to have his name considered by the MDB and by National Renewal Alliance factions disenchanted with the government.

General Bentes Denies Candidacy

PY151921Y Florianopolis Radio Diario da Manha in Portuguese 1515 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[Text] Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro denied this weekend that he had received an official invitation from the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] to be the presidential candidate for the opposition party. He expressed surprise over the news circulating in Brasilia that his name would surely be chosen.

The general declined making any comment on whether he would be appointed and stated that he had not been consulted. Therefore he did not want to give the impression that he is offering himself as a candidate for the MDB.

General Bentes Monteiro stressed that he feels it is valid for a military man to be nominated by the MDB because the opposition is a legal party and there is no reason to differentiate between it and the National Renewal Alliance.

Gen Bentes Monteiro also said that he had never had any ambition for higher posts, but that he is always ready to serve his country.

FIGUEIREDO TO STRESS DECENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT

PY131232Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 78 p 5 PY

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Excerpts] Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo intends to set up a politically, administratively and economically decentralized government. He has already outlined and is beginning to implement a strategy designed to convey through mutual dialog his desire for participation of politicians, military officers, businessmen, intellectuals and workers.

While he has already been meeting with some individuals--primarily politicians and generals, with whom he has been meeting every week--he will first indirectly canvass others, namely, businessmen and intellectuals, through missions he has entrusted to several recently appointed governors, among whom is Laudo Natel of Sao Paulo.

General Figueiredo has set up his strategy as a candidate with a view to announcing his future style of government. For several days he has been following a type of a timetable which, according to his main advisers, will be instrumental in gradually revealing his intentions, his positions and his plans as well.

In other words, pursuant to the strategy which is now underway--according to aides and close friends of the candidate--he intends to show that he will not maintain such a centralized regime as President Geisel's, primarily because the country's socioeconomic conditions will demand other patterns of behavior during his term.

General Figueiredo fears that his government may be worn down or that an impasse may take place if he adopts a position as regid as that adopted by General Geisel in dealing with major problems and in making national decisions. He acknowledges that there is a feeling of exhaustion as a result of the still necessary centralization, and he is determined to demonstrate as of now that he will follow a different pattern. The candidate is now engaged in an effort to make his intentions clear. He has been trying to convey his intentions both directly and indirectly.

Thus, he has been meeting with groups of 10 or 12 generals--usually half of them on active duty and the other half in the reserves--at his residence during weekends to informally discuss all current issues, always emphasizing that "he needs everyone's help, that he will not be able to rule alone or without their participation." Figueiredo could not have overlooked the criticism elicited from military circles by President Geisel's absolutism in decisionmaking. Although he disagrees with this criticism, he has indicated that his government will follow a different pattern. His strategy for the military sector does not end here: Through personal friends and even utilizing the formal structure of the National Intelligence Service for disseminating his ideas, he has been reaching many colonels and lower-rank officers, to whom he conveyed the same message.

Figueredo follows the same attitude in his contacts, either formal or informal, with political leaders, asking them for their help, suggestions, criticism and even proposals regarding major issues, predictions and solutions to impasses. Until his election by the electoral college on 15 October, he will further these talks by touring the states--a tour which he will start next Friday in Rio Grande do Sul State. After his election, he will undertake a "rash" of dialogs--in accordance with plans which are now already outlined--and will also get involved in the campaigning of National Renewal Alliance candidates.

Regarding military officers and politicians, a solution can be achieved through permanent talks and through the support, analyses and formulations which he will request. This method will not be used--at least in this first stage, which will last until his election--with businessmen, the so-called intellectuals and the working class. There can be a few exceptions, however. The creators of this strategy believe that applying the same procedure to the former and latter sectors would be to act prematurely. Therefore, Figueiredo will entrust the governors-elect--although obviously not all of them--with the mission of strengthening his relations with these latter sectors and initiating rapprochement with sectors which consider themselves outside the system or neglected.

Pursuant to the efforts and achievements made during the Geisel administration, Figueiredo believes that he will base his administration on two major guidelines: on the one hand, a politically improved and democratically established regime; and on the other, a decentralized economy in which the establishment of new regional development centers, the increase of agricultural production, and the solution of major urban problems will be emphasized. Thus, everyone's participation and integration will become necessary because the regime will be improved and the legal instruments of arbitrariness repealed.

Thus, the increase of agricultural production continues to be his priority goal. An overall policy for this sector is already being outlined which proposes that foreign resources be obtained and that less-favored classes in both rural areas and large cities be provided with staples at prices which could even be subsidized by the government. It is not a matter of creating a new ministry or of completely reorganizing the present structures but only of implementing certain administrative changes and additions, such as the Brazilian Coffee Institute, which is now under the Industry and Commerce Ministry, to convert the Agriculture Ministry into one of the main pillars of his government.

Another of Figueiredo's major concerns centers on the large cities, since he is not overlooking the fact that by 1983, 80 percent of the Brazilian population will be concentrated in 15 large cities where most Brazilian electors will also be living. This will be a prime concern of the Interior Ministry which, without undergoing major structural changes, will have to guide the process of regional developments and solve the most serious urban problems.

Without being detrimental to the other ministries, the Justice Ministry will also play a highly important role in the next government. The future justice minister will have to take care of the institutional improvements and political reforms which should follow those now underway, since General Figueiredo believes that this process must continue--that it should not stop with the amendments proposed by Senator Petronio Portella but that instead, based on these amendments, new and better proposals should be implemented.

MAGALHAES PINTO TO LAUNCH REDEMOCRATIZATION FRONT

PY121907Y Florianopolis Radio Diario da Manha in Portuguese 1515 GMT 12 May 78 PY

[Text] Senator Magalhaes Pinto will launch the National Redemocratization Front [Frente Nacional para a Redemocratizacao] in Recife today at a ceremony which will be attended by former Industry and Commerce Minister Severo Gomes. Magalhaes said that this front is intended to pull the country out of the institutional deadlock in which it is caught.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONVENTION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

PY130346Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 May 78 PY

[Text] The convention banning the utilization of techniques to change the environment for military or hostile purposes, signed by the Brazilian Government in New York on 9 November 1977, was submitted today to the National Congress.

Pursuant to this convention, those countries represented in the United Nations vow to not promote for military or hostile purposes the use of these techniques, which may have [words indistinct] serious effects, or which may be designed to cause destruction or damage to other states which are signatories of this convention.

BAR ASSOCIATION ENDS CONFERENCE, CALLS FOR FREEDOM

FY131336Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 13 May 78 FY

[Text] Democracy is the only order which can provide the indispensable conditions for a true state of law in which freedom and independence lead to a participation which takes for granted the principles expressed in the package of political reforms, and to the constitutional legitimacy of those reforms.

To achieve this, constitutional acts are not sufficient because these acts alone are not the essence of democracy. On the contrary, democracy makes the right to vote an expression of political and democratic action. [words indistinct] demand a regulated and integrated process (?and) the organization of a multiparty system, guarantees for free expression of thought, and the right to criticize institutions.

This statement was included in the final resolution approved by the Brazilian Bar Association [OAB] at the ceremony closing its seventh national conference in Curitiba.

The OAB also states that there will be no democratic state of law or national security without full habeas corpus, which guarantees that first of all freedoms and the basis of other freedoms--physical freedom, which establishes the inviolability and independence of judges.

Habeas corpus, whose essence is in its own integrity, consecrates five centuries of our Luso-Brazilian heritage--a political, legal and moral heritage which we must safeguard and pass to other generations.

The document states that without freedom of assembly, democracy is not possible and there is no state of law. It adds that social and political rights are part of a state of right which by its ethical nature rejects the idea of injustice based on the excessive wealth of some and the extreme misery of the majority.

The Brazilian lawyers conclude in their declaration that government promises [words indistinct] in the short term in favor of peace and harmony among all Brazilians.

ADDITIONAL CHOLERA SAMPLES FOUND IN SANTOS

FY152010Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 May 78 p 44 FY

[Text] The Basic Sanitation Technological Center has found vibrium cholera in two other sewage samples collected on 8 May in the neighborhoods of Gonzaga and Aparecida in Santos. The samples of the bacillum have been sent to the Adolfo Lutz Institute, which will verify whether or not they are of the El Tor type as was the first sample isolated on 14 April.

Although vibrium cholera has been identified in three samples in the last 30 days, Environment and Works Secretary Francisco de Barros does not consider them sufficient to isolate the source of the contamination because all three samples were collected in different neighborhoods in Santos. He admitted that the existence of vibrium cholera in the sewage of the port of Santos continues to be a puzzling problem, more so since health authorities have not yet found any persons ill with cholera.

PINOCHET SAYS ECONOMY WILL BE 'CONSOLIDATED' THIS YEAR

PY160137Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Vina del Mar--Opening the 14th Congress of the Latin American Association of Industrialists, President Pinochet today stated that Latin American integration systems must be reinforced to cope with common problems demanding broad actions, although each country must first identify its own problems.

Pinochet added that unless unforeseen events take place, the Chilean economy will be consolidated this year. He termed this situation a necessary stage prior to (?achieving) harmonious, progressive growth and development to provide Chilean citizens with the well-being to which they are entitled.

The congress is being held in Independence Hall at the O'Higgins Hotel in this city.

FOUR ALLEGED COMMUNISTS DETAINED BY POLICE

PY151810Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1518 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[Text] Iquique, Chile, 15 May--Police reported today that four members of the proscribed Chilean Communist Party have been detained here.

They are members of a cell operating in this city, 1,350 km north of Santiago, and were surprised while proselytizing. The police did not reveal the identity of those arrested but added that a great amount of subversive propaganda material was found in their possession.

The Communist Party and other leftist groups were banned in Chile after the military coup which ousted Socialist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

THREE RELEASED PRISONERS REPORTEDLY DETAINED ANEW

PY151245Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1515 GMT 13 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 May--It was reported today in Santiago that the police have detained three Chileans who were released by the courts under the amnesty law. The status of these persons is not yet known.

The charge was made by the self-styled Political Prisoners Committee which reported that Victor Heressman Sepulveda, Hector Reyes Nunez and Enrique Sepulveda Colon, who were serving sentences at the Santiago penitentiary, were detained Friday night after they left the penitentiary. Minutes before, their sentences had been abrogated by the courts under the amnesty law.

31 PERSONS FORBIDDEN PERMISSION TO RETURN

PY160133Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The Chilean Government has announced its decision to ban the return to Chile of 31 persons who are considered a threat to national security.

Enrique Montero, under secretary of the Interior Ministry, stated that this decision is unappealable, adding that it was made pursuant to the laws which are now in force in the country. The list of persons banned is headed by Cesar Godoy Urrutia, former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; and includes Miguel Angel Solar, former student leader at the Catholic University; and Victor Barberis, a teacher at the University of Chile.

LAST REFUGEE IN ITALIAN EMBASSY LEAVES FOR SPAIN

PY160141Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Accompanied by his wife and a son, Rafael Gonzalez, the last asylee at the Italian Embassy, left for Spain this afternoon. [words indistinct] He sought asylum at the Italian Embassy on 5 September 1975, where he was admitted as a guest.

CENTRAL BANK HEAD DISCUSSES NATIONAL FINANCE MATTERS

PY122157Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Central Bank President Alvaro Bardon has reported that the balance of payments situation is brighter than had been projected. He noted that through 5 May, Chile had accumulated $305.5 million in reserves and that the Central Bank's gross reserves amount to $1.12 billion. This figure (?includes) a gold quotation at its commercial value. It excludes a $210-million credit granted by the Morgan Trust and the short-term Central Bank credit lines which reportedly amount to $305 million. Bardon said that Chile, therefore, will be able to finance higher [word indistinct] imports than has traditionally been the case.

In April, Chilean imports were substantially higher than those of March and April of 1977. They were $238 million against $169 million in 1977 and $173 million in March 1978. This level of imports, which is basically used in capital goods, is the highest in the last few months and it was only surpassed in June 1977.

[begin Bardon recording] Importation regulations are quite well known. There is a [word indistinct] which also includes the automotive sector. The automotive sector has its [word indistinct] which ends in 1983. And naturally, as tariffs are decreased, there will be more goods available for the community and, therefore, a better standard of living. This is our policy.

But the future readjustments of these (?tariffs) should take place through greater domestic activity. This means higher (?expenditures) and therefore a greater importation of consumer goods. It also means more imports at the intermediate levels for industry, agriculture, etc; and it also constitutes more investments, and therefore, more imports of capital goods [passage indistinct] then the future increase of imports will basically depend on the future increase of the national economic activity. [end recording]

Bardon also noted that it is hoped that the Chilean foreign debt will increase (?but) that this depends on the behavior of imports and exports. He added, in this regard, that the present Chilean foreign debt is $5.3 billion. He also discussed monetary growth. He said that as of 9 May there were 23.3 billion Chilean pesos in circulation, compared to 16.78 billion on 12 December 1977. This means that there has been a 38-percent monetary growth from December to May. Bardon said that this was a reasonable expansion. In this regard he said that the aim is to moderate monetary growth. He added that to expand the economy there should be lower monetary growth. Bardon added: By moderating monetary expansion, inflation is also curbed.

BUSDRIVERS STAGE STRIKE; GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS PUBLIC ORDER

Authorities Report on Strike

PA151816Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1704 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Attention Bogota: Authorities told this newscast at noon today that 35 percent of the transportation services in the country are operating, not including the services which are being provided by the government. In the capital, 65 percent of transportation services are operating except on those routes designated by Mayor Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha, which are functioning normally.

The situation in the entire country is as follows:

Bogota: Transportation along 10 routes embracing all districts continues unimpeded. District bus service is normal. Two vehicles have been set on fire and authorities have foiled sabotage attempts in Boza and Ciudad Kennedy. Extremists have thrown nails on the streets and it is estimated that about 50 persons have been arrested.

Medellin: Activity is normal. About 85 percent of Antioquia's transportation services are operating. Civic strikes are being staged in Angelopolis and Jerico.

Cali: 60 percent of transportation services are presently operating. Some rock-throwing incidents occurred in the southern section of the city. Police have reported 100 arrests.

Bucaramanga: Transportation services are operating normally. A high-powered bomb was defused in a terminal early this morning.

Barranquilla: Authorities report normality although transportation leaders claim there is support with fellow workers throughout the country.

Cucuta: There were some problems here early this morning. Three buses were stoned. The situation along the routes is normal at this time.

Santa Marta, Cartagena, Sincelejo and Riohacha: Service is good so far. Nails were thrown in the streets early this morning. Forty-five extremists were arrested.

Popayan: 30 percent of transportation services are operating normally.

Pasto: Early this morning some rock-throwing incidents occurred. The situation is normal at this time, the police said.

Pereira: 80 percent of transportation services are operating normally.

Armenia: Problems occurred here early this morning. A small bus was stoned at 0500 upon leaving for Chinchina. Police have the situation under control.

Violent Clash in Bogota

PA160325Y Bogota Radio Super in Spanish 0310 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Urgent: A violent clash is occurring at this moment on 24th Avenue and 2nd Street in El Vergel district of this capital. Approximately 50 demonstrators have been arrested.

This station has learned that dozens of demonstrators stoned several vehicles which were traveling on the aforementioned streets, necessitating intervention by the army, which is patrolling the city. According to information obtained by this station, two persons were injured during the clash with police.

Government Terms Strike 'Failure'

PA152012Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] The announced nationwide strike by public busdrivers was only partially successful in this capital, which is totally under military control and where a dry law is in effect as part of an official plan to maintain public order.

In other cities, the busdrivers strike failed and service is being provided as usual. However, in Bogota service by buses and vans was noticeably reduced, particularly in districts on the outskirts of the city.

The timely intervention of military authorities and the police has prevented any large-scale disruption of public order, but there have been some incidents in the southern part of the city.

In any case, there has been almost total [word indistinct] in commercial activity, while classes were suspended in elementary and high schools and universities.

While the busdrivers were proclaiming the success of their strike to demand wage benefits, the government announced that it was completely in control of the situation and that the situation in the country is completely normal.

At midday today, the government declared that the strike called by a minority group of busdrivers was a failure, and said that except for some disorders in Bogota public order in the rest of the country is normal.

A government spokesman said that the strike order was disobeyed in the main cities. Police headquarters announced that professional agitators clashed with the police in the southern sector of Bogota, but that at this time the situation is fully under control.

Police revealed that on highways in the southern sector near Boza municipality rioters destroyed a bus belonging to the Samper-Mendoza company.

In the western sector of the capital, there were also outbreaks of violence which were quickly quelled by military authorities. Two students were arrested by the F-2 at 59th Street and 10th Avenue as they were about to plant several bombs. Other agitators were arrested as they were preparing to attack a gas station.

The police also disclosed that several persons were arrested as they were about to strew nails in the streets.

Government, Drivers To Resume Negotiations

PA152308Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Labor Minister Juan Gonzalo Restrepo this afternoon will resume negotiations with busdrivers in another attempt to resolve the delicate situation.

This station was told that the government and the transportation workers will study ways in which to apply decrees regarding triple wages on Sundays, recognition of overtime and night duty and the establishment of fixed basic wage. In addition, the transportation workers unions will demand that the government enforce the most elementary rules established in the labor code, which are being repeatedly violated by the bus owners.

The negotiating commission of the transportation workers will be headed by the president of the United Committee of Transport Workers, Sancredo Herran.

President Issues Communique

PA151841Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1704 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Colombian presidency communique issued in Bogota on 15 May]

[Text] In exercise of his legal powers and especially those granted him by Law 15 of 1959, the president decrees:

1. It is forbidden for enterprises, management or proprietors of vehicles in the automotive transportation industry to demand surety deposits, bonds, securities or similar conditions from paid drivers to sign the work contract or to implement the procedures in it;

2. As far as the effects of Article 56 of Decree 1393 of 1970 are concerned, it is understood that the workday comprises the time during which the driver is at the service of the enterprise or manager, either at the wheel, on the route, or simply at the disposal of one or the other.

3. The present decree is in force from the date of its issuance.

To be published, divulged and complied with. Bogota, Special District, 15 May 1978. Signed: President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Labor and Social Security Minister Juan Gonzalo Restrepo Velez, Public Works and Transportation Minister Humberto Salcedo Collante

Government Will Not Punish Strikers

PA160255Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--The government will not take reprisals against the salaried drivers or transportation companies which did not provide service because the strike was not declared illegal, a San Carlos Palace spokesman said. He also said that Bogota's mayor, Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha, inspected the Special District this afternoon to personally evaluate the existing situation and the deployment of government forces. He said that the public order situation is completely normal.

The government spokesman admitted that only a minimum number of buses were operating despite efforts to restore normalcy to transportation in the various parts of the city.

Although the burning and stoning of buses was reported earlier in Bogota, the situation has returned to normal. There is no information on other parts of the country where, according to government officials, the strike is being partially observed.

According to observers, official reports about an alleged boycott of the 4 June elections are related to the drivers strike and to a 24-hour strike of government workers, to be held next Thursday, seeking a 50-percent wage readjustment and rejecting a 25-percent increase. The demands are supported by the four Colombian labor centrals, which last September held a nationwide strike against the government's economic policy.

The labor situation was joined by a wave of student and labor violence caused by an increase in urban transportation fares. These demonstrations are supported by the salaried drivers. The drivers' leaders believe that increases are caused by [words indistinct]. The drivers strike should end today at midnight.

The strike prompted the government to place the cities under military control and to decree compulsory vacations at the nation's schools. A dry law is in effect for an indefinite period in all Colombian cities.

MINISTER ARAUJO REPORTS ON PLOT TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS

PA152258Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 15 May (AFP)--Colombian Government Minister Alfredo Araujo Grau today reported that an alleged subversive plot exists to obstruct the presidential elections of 4 June.

In statements to the press, the minister abstained from giving more details on the plot. He spoke to the press at the same time that urban transportation is being semiparalyzed by a 1-day strike declared by salaried drivers. The strike is for salary increases, an 8-hour workday instead of the present 16-hour one, and payment of social benefits which are refused by busowners, the union leader said.

Araujo Guarantees Honest Elections

PA142325Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1712 GMT 14 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 14 May (EFE)--The Colombian Government today reaffirmed that all political parties and groups will have full guarantees during the coming 4 June elections, when a new president of the republic will be elected.

Government Minister Alfredo Araujo Grau has issued specific instructions to local officials asking them to grant the citizens all possible help to allow them to vote without pressure. He also issued a ban of political demonstrations, rallies, or marches in public places throughout the country from 29 May to 11 June.

The seven candidates who will participate in the June elections have been assured by the government that the will of the people will be respected and that no fraud will be permitted under penalty of law.

RESOURCES MINISTER REJECTS PESSIMISTIC ECONOMIC PORTRAIT

PA121824Y Quito EL COMMERCIO in Spanish 5 May 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Acting natural resources minister Ney Mancheno said yesterday that there has been a significant increase in oil exports recently as a result of measures applied by the Natural Resources Ministry through the Marketing Committee of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) to expand and safeguard the international market for crude.

Mancheno added that during March and April of the present year and so far this month the rate of oil production and sales has continued to increase, which increases prospects for "a stable economic situation benefiting the country as a result of the aggressive and resolute marketing policy, which has even managed to neutralize the decline in prices."

"In view of this," the minister said, "any information which distorts the image of the nation's oil status is groundless. For this reason, it is exclusively the prerogative of this ministry, as the agency responsible for oil policy and its implementation, to issue statements in this regard."

The acting minister's statements were made in response to a statement made by the minister of industries, commerce and integration to the effect that the prospects for Ecuadorean exports are somber because of the reduction in oil sales and the constant decline in the price of coffee on the international market.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL REJECTS TWO PARTIES' CANDIDATES

PA131323Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito--The presidential ticket of Camilo Mena and Jaime Hurtado Gonzalez, of the Popular Democratic Movement, and the vice presidential candidacy of Osvaldo Hurtado, of the Christian Democratic Union, were all excluded today from the Ecuadorean electoral campaign.

Ecuador's Supreme Electoral Tribunal has not recognized these two new groups as political parties and under the law they cannot sponsor candidates.

On the other hand, the tribunal has reregistered the previously registered Popular Patriotic Party because the tribunal felt that it had made "a factual error" by not recognizing this party the first time.

Comment on Disqualification

PA132159Y Quito La Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 May 78 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which has become the target of harsh criticism because of its surprising decisions, has refused the appeal presented by the Popular Democratic Movement [MPD], thereby confirming its earlier decision denying recognition of that group as new political party. The MPD supports the presidential candidacies of Drs Camilo Mena and Jaime Hurtado Gonzalez, who reacted as follows upon hearing of the decision:

[begin Mena recording] We wish to express our most vigorous protest against and rejection of this decision reached by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and blame it for whatever may occur. We also state emphatically that the MPD believes that what we are experiencing is a counterfeit democracy and total adulteration of the so-called process of constitutional return.

In addition, the MPD, which has set forth its principles in a program of government that has been very well received by the people, expresses its determination to continue to reorganize, restructure and reinforce its cadre in order to participate in upcoming elections, since it expects and hopes that the present members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the dictatorship will leave shortly, leaving an opening for the people to determine their historical destiny. [end recording]

[begin Hurtado Gonzalez recording] All our people who were supporting the program--the declaration of principles of the Popular Democratic Movement--have seen once again in this decision that the people cannot exercise, under these conditions and this system, their right to choose the persons whom they feel should guide the country's destiny.

In the second place, we are not too surprised by the tribunal's decision. We know who the members of the tribunal are and the role they play. We were also aware of their fear of the people who were organized through the MPD.

However, we are fully convinced that our political movement has already been recognized by the ones who should recognize us: precisely the people, who were backing the movement and who were prepared to demonstrate that they are no longer willing to accept the present state of affairs, that they are not willing to allow others to guide the country's destiny to the detriment of those who should really lead; that is, the Ecuadorean people. [end recording]

Political Reaction to Decision

PA151325Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 14 May 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 14 May (AFP)--Osvaldo Hurtado, leader of the Popular Democracy-Christian Democratic Union [DP-UDC], which was eliminated by the Electoral Tribunal, will join an allied party, the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP], to maintain his candidacy for the vice presidency of Ecuador, it was announced here today. The decision was made this morning by the National Directive Council of the DP-UDC as an alternative to its elimination as a political party by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

In a communique issued by the DP-UDC in "reply to the maneuver and fraud" of which it accused the tribunal and the military government, it warned that it will adopt disciplinary measures against the group's candidates who do not fall in with the CFP. Hurtado was nominated vice presidential candidate on the ticket with Jaime Roldos of the CFP and his elimination was considered a blow against populism.

The CFP held a national convention today to adopt appropriate measures and it is believed that the decision of its ally, the DP-UDC, will permit keeping the Roldos-Hurtado ticket intact. If this is the case, the CFP must register its ticket before next Tuesday, which would leave six electoral formulas for the 16 July elections which will return Ecuador to a de jure system of government after 8 years of dictatorship.

THREE NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN; COMMENTS NOTED

PY160342Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The three new ministers were sworn in today during a ceremony held in the 3 October Hall of the Government House. The applause of the people attending the ceremony broke the rigidity of protocol after the ministers were sworn in--Javier Silva Ruete as economy and finance minister, Gabriel Lanatta as industry, commerce, tourism and integration minister and Gen Fernando Velit Sabattini as interior minister.

The ceremony was held at noon with the attendance of the members of the revolutionary junta and the entire cabinet, including the president of the armed forces joint command and the army chief of staff.

The outgoing ministers were decorated by President Morales Bermudez with the Cross of Merit for their distinguished services. Morales Bermudez decorated the outgoing ministers by order of seniority. First was Gen Gaston Ibanez O'Brien, then Gen Alcibiades Saenz Barsallo and Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra.

The president stressed his appreciation to the three ministers for their cooperation during their stay in the cabinet.

The economy and finance minister, Javier Silva Ruete, [words indistinct] honesty at all times. He also said that in his dealings with the international community, Peru will not negotiate by begging, that it will fulfill its commitments without surrendering [words indistinct]. He also emphasized that he is thoroughly identified with the revolutionary process. The new minister said that he is assuming complete responsibility for all decisions he will make from now on. Therefore, he will relieve the armed forces of responsibility for the mistakes he may commit. He said he will give the nation all necessary information in order for the people to appreciate the efforts made.

He also asked the people to share the burden of the sacrifices to be made, keeping in mind that the person who has more must give more, not only in accordance with a proportionate scale but also in line with a progressive one. He asked them to look to the future and to continue on the road of development based on our own efforts and to search for all means to fight unemployment and unacceptable social discrimination. He said that the task is very difficult and the situation is serious but not hopeless, and that he is sure that all Peruvians will aid in the country's progress.

He added that the crisis the country is experiencing demands that the people understand that duties are first and rights are second.

The minister of industry, commerce, tourism and integration, Gabriel Lanatta, emphasized the need to promote national unity without hate or rancor so that we can overcome the difficult economic and financial stage the country is experiencing. Lanatta was introduced by former Minister Gaston Ibanez O'Brien. The new minister said: Peruvians can each think differently. We have the right to have different positions, but we do not have the right to hate and destroy the country. He said he will continue the work of General Ibanez and that he will work hard. He asked everyone to work hard and said that there will be no need to make changes but that the work should continue with everyone's help.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PRICE, WAGE INCREASES; PROTESTS REPORTED

Fuel, Staples, Transportation Prices Increased

PA151925Y AFP in Spanish 1441 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)--The Peruvian Government today decreed an increase in the price of fuel, transportation fares and staples as complementary measures to cope with the country's current economic state of emergency.

The measure, published in today's OFFICIAL GAZETTE, is the second part of a so-called "economic package" recommended by the IMF to help Peru pay its foreign debt, which amounts to more than $4.2 billion. The first measure adopted was a tax increase.

Effective today, the price of fuel was increased by 66 percent per gallon, and urban and interurban transportation fares went up 50 percent. The price of several staples, most of which are subsidized by the government, was increased by varying amounts. For example, the price of canned milk went up 59 percent, bread 52 percent and cooking oil 130 percent.

These measures are in addition to an 18 percent devaluation of the Peruvian sol which took place 4 days ago.

Public Seems 'Stunned'

PA152121Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)--Attempted looting and the blocking of public roads was the first reaction here to the drastic economic measures which increased the cost of living in Peru almost 60 percent.

A supermarket in the middle-class district of Magdalena was partially looted and the Tupac Amaru Avenue leading to the populous Barrio Joven (Misery Villa) was blocked by demonstrators protesting the measures announced today.

Public transportation was reduced considerably when the microbuses--small buses with 25-passenger capacity--were withdrawan from circulation to prevent them from becoming the object of reprisals by the people protesting the bus fare increase.

People waited in long lines in front of supermarkets in the hope of buying groceries before the "price tags change"--words used here to denote the price hike.

Police units armed with submachineguns were on alert to maintain order.

In downtown Lima there were no incidents until late afternoon, but some establishments closed their doors and many stores had their doors only partially open, limiting the number of persons inside the establishments.

There were some arrests according to a police report but there has been no news of any clashes between authorities and the people. The general impression among political leaders and observers is that the people were stunned by the economic measures and were consequently unable to react. Also, the government took steps to lessen the impact of the price increases on the so-called family basket.

The measures having the greatest social effect were signed by the ministers which have been replaced, it has been stated. The new ministers, who were sworn in today, will sign those measures which attempt to lessen the burden. Officially, AFP learned that an important wage hike will be decreed to compensate for the reduction in buying power caused by the price increases. The respective law decree "will not take more than 48 hours" before it is issued, it was added.

It also was learned officially by AFP that at any moment it will be announced that the International Monetary Fund has unfrozen special drawing rights in the amount of $116 million. This will permit announcing to the country the revitalization of its seriously compromised economy, which will have psychological effects offsetting the measures announced today.

Radio Reports on Protest

PY160228Y Lima Radio El Sol in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Summary] "Early today the people expressed their dissatisfaction in various sectors of the capital [words indistinct] over the unexpected economic measures adopted by the government, some of which were announced late last night and in the package issued through government publications this morning."

There were incidents in areas such as (Coma). "However, the police were able to control these excesses." Another problem was the lack of transportation facilities in some sectors of the capital, such as (San Borja). The (?6-M) committee of drivers called a strike today.

Protests Spread to Other Cities

PA160005Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2340 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)--It was reported here today that the protests over the price increases decreed by the government have spread to the cities of Cuzco and Arequipa in southern Peru.

In Cuzco, 1,165 km southeast of Lima, protesters marched to the downtown area and built barricades with bricks. Police dispersed the mob. By this afternoon the situation seemed to be normal. No casualties or arrests were reported.

Wage Increases Announced

PA160141Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0115 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)--The government officially announced today wage increases to compensate for the increase in the cost of living as a result of the economic measures.

The increases are from 500 soles ($3.57) a month for higher income state workers to 2,000 soles for those with lower wages. An across-the-board increase of 1,500 soles ($11.70) a month was announced for private enterprise employees and workers.

PEREZ: OIL PRICE FREEZE WILL NOT LAST BEYOND DECEMBER

PA151927Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1447 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1t May (AFP)--According to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, the oil price freeze will not last beyond December 1978 "at the most," it was learned here today.

Perez affirmed that if OPEC does not decide to increase oil prices at its midyear meeting, the price freeze "will not last beyond" December 1978.

He maintained that prices will "inevitably" continue to rise and noted that conventionally extracted petroleum is almost exhausted and that exploring the remaining petroleum will require amore complex technology which will directly affect prices.

He pointed out that petroleum is a scarce resource and said that it will be depleted "before a substitute can be found." Because of this, he said, "Venezuela and the petroleum-exporting countries have nothing to fear regarding the sale of their petroleum or its price," justifying the Venezuelan position in favor of an OPEC increase in petroleum prices. Perez himself recalled that during the most recent OPEC meeting, held in Caracas in December, Venezuela proposed an oil price hike of 5 to 8 percent and the use of 1 year's proceeds of this prince increase to pay Third World countries' debts to industrialized nations.

Venezuela, a cofounder of OPEC, is the United States' main supplier of oil and the fourth-ranking exporter and fifth-ranking producer in the world.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL PRODUCTION, PRICE INCREASE

OW121325Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 May 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO--Venezuelan Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo predicted here Friday that the crude oil price will climb to dollar 20.00 per barrel from the present dollar 12.70 over the next five years.

He cited depletion of oil deposits in the long run and continued spending for oil imports by consuming countries like the United States as reasons for such possibility.

Discounting a general belief that current easing of supply and demand situation for oil will last until 1981, Silva forecast the oversupply will end in one year.

He made the remarks to newsmen at the Imperial Hotel, where he signed Venezuela's second yen-denomination bond issue in Japan totaling yen 40 billion with a syndicate of 37 Japanese banks and securities firms.

Silva said that Venezuela has reduced daily output of its crude to 2 million barrels from 3.4 million barrels in the past to lessen its reliance on oil for its revenues.

Admitting that oil exports are still a main pillar of his country's revenues, he said that production will be raised to 2.2 million barrels in 1979, of which 1.9 million barrels will be exported.

He stressed that Venezuela is now placing major emphasis on welfare and industrialization programs, mainly infrastructures such as roads, waterways and waterworks, as well as capital-intensive steelworks, hydropower plants and coal production.

Referring to a major alumina and aluminum smelting project in Venezuela, he said that this will constitute a major pillar in increasing its foreign exchange reserves and a substantial amount of aluminum could be exported to Japan.

Asked about Venezuela's trade balance prospects, he replied that the deficit will continue for the next few years but said he is not worried about this because it is a "calculated deficit."

He said that the trade deficit totaled dollar 79 million in 1977 mainly due to imports of materials for producer goods that accounted for 70 percent of the country's total imports in the year.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTER COMMENTS ON INFLATION RATE

PA131316Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 12 May 78 PA

[Text] Development Minister Luis Alvarez Dominguez has said that the inflation rate in Venezuela is one of the lowest in the world. The development minister was interviewed by Radio Continente.

[begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, the Venezuelan Central Bank maintains that inflation in the interior of the country is higher than in the capital. In Guayana, it reaches 25 percent. As development minister [words indistinct].

[Answer] The Central Bank figures deserve the greatest credibility because the bank has tremendous technical expertise. I would say that we should stress two points in connection with the Central Bank figures. One is that Venezuela's inflation rate is approximately 9 percent (?annually). This is one of the lowest rates in the world. The other point is the Central Bank's forecast that this inflation rate should decrease in the last 6 months of 1978 and the beginning of 1979. This means that the anti-inflationary measures we adopted in July 1977 [words indistinct] have given good results. At the same time, one point of concern is Guayana region, which has a very high inflation rate. This is undoubtedly the result of the economic [words indistinct] being experienced by this zone [words indistinct].

FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI RELEASED FROM BOSTON HOSPITAL

PA122330Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 May 78 p 5 D PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi was released yesterday from the hospital where he was operated on last week.

According to Foreign Ministry reports, the operation was successful but he must remain in Boston for 15 more days under observation. It is believed that Foreign Minister Consalvi will not return until after the special UN General Assembly called to study the arms race issue and the beginning of a true disarmament process, especially in the nuclear weapons field.

As we have already announced, Foreign Minister Consalvi will give his speech at the UN assembly on 24 May. It must be kept in mind that Consalvi was a member of the group of experts which drafted the report requested by the secretary general.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ-PORTILLO LEAVES FOR USSR 15 MAY

FL152210Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2156 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 15 May (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo left today shortly after 1300 local time (1900 GMT) for an official visit to the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

The Mexican president's tour will last 14 days, during which he will sign various scientific and technological agreements with the USSR and Bulgaria. Lopez-Portillo will also hold talks with member countries of CEMA, the socialist nations' economic community, for the purpose of expanding Mexico's trade relations with these countries.

The Mexican chief executive is scheduled to arrive in the USSR tomorrow, where he will meet with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and [will attend] a conference on the theory of the state at the Moscow State University.

During their talks, the two rulers will discuss oil and uranium. An agreement on the sale of Mexican energy sources to Cuba, which has already been discussed, will be further elaborated, it was learned here.

One of the primary political objectives of the Mexican president's tour is to try to get the USSR to sign the Tlatelolco treaty on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and (?it is) believed that Brezhnev would be willing, in principle, to sign it.

On this, his third trip abroad (Lopez-Portillo alreadyhas visited the United States and Colombia) the Mexican president will visit various cities in the Soviet Union. He will go to Sofia, Bulgaria, on 25 May.

Enriched Uranium Option Sought

PA160318Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0052 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 May (AFP)--During his visit to the USSR beginning 17 May [as received], President Jose Lopez-Portillo will explore the possibility of buying enriched uranium from that country, it was learned here today.

The announcement was made by Jose Andres de Oteyza, secretary of patrimony and industrial development, who said that Lopez-Portillo will seek an option during his visit to the USSR in order to avoid total dependence on one country for enriched uranium.

Oteyza said that they will now talk with the Soviets as they did with the United States, noting that Mexico will buy enriched uranium from the source offering the best possibilities.

The official stated that if there are only three countries which enrich uranium (the United States, the USSR and France), Mexico will have to depend on one of them.

FINNISH TRADE DELEGATION MEETS WITH COMMERCE OFFICIALS

PA160239Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] A delegation of Finnish investors, headed by Commerce Minister Eero Rantala, arrived in Panama today. Its first meeting with Panamanian officials was held at the Holiday Inn this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Julio Sosa, commerce and industries minister; Ignacio Molino, director of the Center for Research and Promotion of Investments and Exports (CIPIEX); and Pedro Rognoni, president of the Panamanian industrialists union.

The Finnish investors are currently visiting three Latin American countries, including Panama, to discover possibilities for investments, sales and transfer of technology. The group includes representatives of shipyard industries and manufacturers of equipment to produce and distribute electric energy. The delegation also includes representatives of economic consulting firms and importers of fruits, vegetables and grains.

The Finnish delegation will stay in Panama until Wedensday. It will meet with interested public and private sectors.

Shortly after coordinating the delegation's 72-hour schedule, the Finnish and Panamanian commerce ministers went to the residence of Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos to discuss subjects of interest to the two nations.

A Canadian trade delegation will arrive this week and a delegation from Hong Kong will arrive at the end of May.

HAVANA, PANAMA UNIVERSITIES TO SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

PA161210Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Dr Abdiel Adames, director of the Research Development Center; Dr Nils Castro, director of academic planning; and Dr Carlos Manuel Gasteazoro, director of the university publishing house, left for Havana, Cuba, to sign, in the name of the University of Panama, an agreement for scientific-techincal and cultural cooperation with the University of Havana.

The agreement provides for:

The exchange of professors and research for postgraduate courses in scientific and technological fields; the exchange of computer data processing for teaching purposes and university statistics; exchange of expertise and advice in the area of library science and centers of documentation and scientific information; exchange of information and expertise regarding methods and forms of organization, planning and evaluation of scientific research and technological experimentation, as well as methods and techniques for selecting and establishing priorities and classifying scientific research; exchange of information regarding programming of the teaching-learning process and the exchange of audiovisual material, books and manuals for teaching purposes.

The Cuban university system is comprised of 14 universities and academic institutes of higher education which have achieved notable successes in the development of technology in the areas of farming, agrochemicals, health and mathematics applied to the economy, for which reason it is expected that this agreement will result in positive progress for higher education in Panama.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER STATES POSITION ON POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA160351Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0245 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)--Foreign Minister Rafael A. Calderon today reiterated that Costa Rica will maintain unchanged its tradition as a country of asylum for politically persecuted individuals. All requests for asylum will be studied. If they meet the requirements, they will be granted, he said in answer to a question on the position of the new Costa Rican Government led by Rodrigo Carazo regarding the many cases in which opponents of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza have requested asylum in Costa Rica.

The foreign minister said he has not yet formed an opinion regarding the request for pardon made to the Costa Rican authorities by Plutarco Hernandez Sancho, one of the highest-ranking leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. He said he is waiting to read the file after he receives it from the Supreme Court of Justice in order to make a decision since, as a member of the Council of Ministers, he must take a stand and decide if the requested pardon should be granted.

Hernandez Sancho, a Costa Rican citizen, has been sentenced to 16 years in jail for participating in a bloody attack on a Costa Rican prison in 1969 to release imprisoned FSLN leader Carlos Fonseca Amador. He submitted his request for pardon in April. Since then it has been under study by the government. The Council of Ministers must make the decision on the pardon.

REVIEW OF INTERIOR MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS ORDERED

PA151412Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealy has ordered a complete review of all appointments in the various agencies of the ministry. The measure has been taken because of a series of accusations that many of those who have been appointed to positions of authority have been tried in court or have had [legal] problems on previous occasions.

For purposes of the review, the appointments will be compared with criminal records from all over the country.

RADIO RELOJ DENOUNCES TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

PA131311Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Last night's terrorist bomb explosion in a chicken establishment in San Jose leads us to believe that there are irresponsible persons even in Costa Rica. Respect for the dignity of mankind is one of our characteristics as a nation. A good Costa Rican would never accept violence, terror or aggression to be used against mankind as political weapons or as a source of fun or entertainment.

There are people who entertain themselves with games, and there are others who apparently do it by planting bombs. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that this has happened in Costa Rica during changeovers in administrations. We remember that when the Trejos-Fernandez administration came to power 16 terrorist bombs were planted. The same thing happened when the Oduber government was inaugurated.

The disrespectful and irresponsible way in which these bombs have been planted is evidence that the groups responsible for these actions are made up of restentful and confused persons who use the darkness of night to carry out their crimes. The planting of a bomb is as serious a crime as murder. Aware of the harm that a bomb can do to a person, the terrorists plant them at random, without carying for anyone's life.

The Carazo Odio government cannot allow a group of charlatans to succeed in tarnishing the country's good name. This is not a matter that involves a government only; this situation involves the prestige, the good name and the international respect of a nation.

A confused person's action, such as last night's, could have resulted in a tragedy. Besides, it is a shameful act that harms all Costa Ricans who believe in peace and in the good image we have created for ourselves at the international level.

We hereby state our protest against and rejection of last night's event and demand strong and drastic measures against those responsible.

EL SALVADOR

UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS MACHINEGUN SUPREME COURT BUILDING

PA151554Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1515 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Supreme Court of Justice building in this capital was machinegunned at 0540 (1140 GMT) today. The attack was concentrated on the second and third floors of the building, which is located in the government complex beside the Legislative Assembly building.

The shots destroyed 12 windows. Several (?cartridges) were found.

According to Supreme Court sources, there were no casualties.

So far none of the subversive groups operating in El Salvador has claimed credit for the attack.

FPL Flag Found

PA152348Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran authorities today found a flag with the initials of the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) at the site of the shooting at the Supreme Court of Justice building. The attack took place at 0530 (1130 GMT) in an area surrounded by government buildings, including that of the Supreme Court.

At the same site, the authorities also found 19 empty cartridges from a G-3 German rifle. The shooting was directed at the second and third floors of the building. No one was injured, but 12 windows were broken.

PDC ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP, DESCRIBES PROGRAM

PA151414Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party--PDC--has elected the members who will occupy the vacant posts in the party's leadership. They are:

Dr Pablo Mauricio Albergue	President
Dr Mario Zamora Rivas	Conventions secretary
Domingo Hernandez	Finance secretary
Luis Felipe Adam	Secretary of administration
Eduardo (Polinder)	Secretary of information
Roberto Diaz	Secretary of youth
Oscar (Menjivar)	Secretary of propaganda
Rafael (Diaz Cortas)	Recording secretary
Alberto (Vareles)	Secretary of the (?family)
Julio Adolfo (Rais Prendes)	Secretary general
Hector (Gada)	Secretary of national problems
Marianela Garcia Diaz	Secretary of organization
Julieta de Colindres	Women's secretary [secretaria femenina]
Orlando Campos	Labor secretary
Jorge (Diaz Cortas)	Peasants secretary

Political Goals Outlined

PA160147Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party agreed at its last convention on the following program: to continue its work to create a solid and permanent party structure; to organize local committees; to redouble efforts to reorganize its formal organizations; to draw up its own strategies and undertake action to strengthen its individual activities; to seek, together with all progressive sectors of Salvadoran society, those points of agreement which will produce joint support for the cause of democratization and justice; to give special attention to the party's ideological platform; and, to work on a model of development which is to be ready within 2 months and other important matters in the Salvadoran political scene.

ARCHBISHOP REFUSES TO APPEAR BEFORE SUPREME COURT

PA151350Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 14 May 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)--Mongsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Gadalmez, archbishop of San Salvador, said today, Sunday, that he will not appear before the Supreme Court of Justice for questioning.

Early last week the Supreme Court summoned Monsignor Romero to name the venal judges he referred to in his homily delivered on 30 April.

Monsignor Romero said that it was up to the Supreme Court to see to it that the laws are complied with and to determine who is responsible for breaking them. "I am not the one to give the names of those who are not complying with the laws," Monsignor Romero said in mass this morning in the cathedral. He said that many accusations of venality have been made locally and abroad that they should be investigated. Monsignor Romero said that any official in charge of administering justice who becomes an accomplice in the flaws of justice is venal.

Monsignor Romero categorically said that man's fundamental rights are being trampled upon in El Salvador and there is no institution to denounce it. He said that in El Salvador Article 164 of the constitution establishes that every person has the right to habeas corpus when illegally deprived of his freedom, but this article is not observed.

Several prosecuting judges have complained about the lack of cooperation on the part of police authorities when they try to find out about prisoners, Monsignor Romero noted. He said that 180 families have had relatives arrested but at present they do not know where they are.

Monsignor Romero mentioned a series of what he considers flaws in El Salvador's justice department. He said it is up to the Supreme Court of Justice to investigate these irregularities.

UNIONS PRESENT LIST OF DEMANDS TO GOVERNMENT

PA160153Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Unions affiliated with the United Confederation of Salvadoran Workers have released a list of demands presented to the supreme authorities of the republic. They include: 1) abrogation of the recently approved law of defense and guarantee of public order; 2) respect for the right to strike, labor rights, the right to organize and all the social conquests of both urban and rural workers; 3) no coercion of workers defending labor rights; 4) an end to antilabor coercion by all sectors of the country.

A total of 80 unions are affiliated with the United Confederation of Salvadoran Workers.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT REITERATES DEMANDS OVER BELIZE

PA160208Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Inaugurating the national hospital in Melchor de Mencos, close to the Belizean border, Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Eugenio Laugerud reiterated Guatemalans' firm determination to defend, even at the cost of lives and with weapons in hand, the country's rights over that territory, which is held by Great Britain. The Guatemalan president said that England admittedly has sophisticated weapons, but the fighting spirit of the Guatemalan soldier should not be underestimated. Moreover, Guatemalans have right and reason on their side.

General Laugerud said the British were notorious masters of espionage, international intrigue and devious diplomacy.

VILLAGERS PROTEST WATER SHORTAGE; POLICE SENT IN

PA132355Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2236 GMT 13 May 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 May (ACAN-EFE)--Police antiriot units were sent today to Sanarate, a village located 60 km north of this capital, to quell a possible rebellion by villagers against the municipal authorities. A climate of unrest has prevailed in the region for almost a month where the people are protesting against a complete water shortage. In the first outbreak of violence, police were sent to protect the municipal authorities, whom the infuriated villagers threatened to lynch. Some 60 antiriot policemen were sent to Sanarate today to restore order and prevent further problems after learning that other incidents had occurred.

NICARAGUA

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEIZE SCHOOLS, BEGIN STRIKE

PA160338Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0154 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)--Today, Monday, several high school student leaders began paralyzing classes in the most important schools of this capital, alleging that "Somoza has not fulfilled the promises he made 15 days ago to the group of parents who visited him." The Ramirez Goyena National Institute, the Teacher Gabriel Institute and the National Business Institute of Managua, which have approximately 10,000 students, have all begun a strike which, according to the student leaders, may be of indefinite duration. Other national institutes were seized [tomado] last night and today in the cities of Leon in the west Jinotepe in the south and Granada in the east.

The students are protesting that the conflict at the National School of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, which has the rank of university, has not been resolved. The government had earlier dismissed those teachers who, it said, left their posts voluntarily to support the national strike staged in mid-February--promoted by the private sector and the opposition-thus bringing classes at this school to an end.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO SEEK AMNESTY DECREE

PA160144Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Rene Sandino Arguello, national president of the minority Nicaraguan Conservative Party, said today that he will suggest at the party's next leadership meeting that the government issue a broad amnesty decree for political prisoners. The opposition leader said that the amnesty decree will be sought again by the Conservative representatives in Congress, where earlier a commission had been appointed to study the possibility of issuing such a decree but which so far has made no progress.

MILITARY EVICTS PEASANTS FROM OCCUPIED LAND

PA131518Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 13 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Over 1,500 peasant families who had occupied some 10,000 manzanas of land in Chinandega Department were evicted by military patrols following legal instructions. Over 100 peasants have been arrested in the last 3 days for carrying out land occupations. Women, children and old men were among those arrested. The problem was caused by the peasants decision to occupy the land in an effort to bring pressure on the government to solve health, employment and other problems.

HAVANA REPORTS REBEL ATTACK ON KOLWEZI, ZAIRE

FL151521Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] Armed groups have clashed with troops of the Zairian regime around the Kolwezi mining center in Shaba Province in what appears to be a new eruption of the armed struggle in that region. According to a rebel spokesman, seven French soldiers were taken prisoner during the attack on Kolwezi which, he said, remains under the control of the attackers.

It is asserted in a Belgian Foreign Ministry note on the events that the rebels control one-half of the city of Kolwezi in the Zairian Province of Shaba.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES APPROVE HEALTH PROGRAM IN GENEVA

FL131747Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 May 78 FL

[Text] The public health ministers of nonalined and developing countries have approved an action program on public health cooperation. The program was introduced by Cuba and will be submitted to the nonalined movement's sixth summit conference that will be held in Havana in 1979.

Delegates from 40 countries met in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss health problems in the underdeveloped world. The action program introduced by Cuba and approved at the meeting contains 14 points concerning the training of personnel, scientific research and nutrition policy.

CUBAN, ECUADOREAN BANKS SIGN CREDIT AGREEMENT

FL151648Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] A credit agreement between the Cuban National Bank [BNC] and Central Bank of Ecuador has been signed at the BNC headquarters. Rodrigo Espinoza, general manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador, and BNC Minister-President Raul Leon Torras signed the document.

During its stay in our country, the Ecuadorean delegation visited places of economic, social and tourist interest.

PCC OFFICIAL RECEIVES HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION

FL152332Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2323 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] A Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] delegation headed by Lajos Rev, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and president of the Hungarian National Association of Industrial Cooperatives, has met with Oscar Domenech, deputy chief of the PCC Revolutionary Orientation Department. Matters concerned with the work being done by both parties were discussed during the meeting.

The Hungarian delegation is fulfilling a program of exchanges between the two parties during which the delegation will participate in conferences.

VALLE ROQUE CHAIRS BUILDING MATERIALS QUALITY MEETING

FL122336Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 78 FL

[Carmen Caminas telephone report]

[Text] Jose Valle Roque, minister of the construction materials industry, today made the closing remarks at the national meeting for orientation and exchange of viewpoints in connection with results obtained from steps taken to improve the quality of construction materials. The experiences gained in 5 national centers of the construction materials industry and 22 other enterprises of this country were examined at this meeting. These enterprises include, among others, the Augusto Cesar Sandino carpentry enterprise of Havana City, the Armando Mestre asbesto-cement complex of Santiago de Cuba, the tile factory of Cienfuegos, the Reynaldo Mora quarry of Pinar del Rio Province, and the Francisco Pita tile works of Havana City.

In his closing remarks Minister Jose Valle Roque said that the activities undertaken at various production centers of the construction materials industry to improve quality of materials were very positive. He said that the deficiencies that have had the greatest effect on quality of certain materials have been identified at meetings. These deficiencies include disregard of technical standards, lack of control in laboratories, incorrect use and exploitation of technological equipment, and deficient maintenance. Valle Roque pointed out the need to make it definitely clear that the struggle for quality is the task of everyone, but primarily officials at all levels of the construction materials industry.

LAGE NOTES ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN BULK SUGAR EXPORTS

FL151641Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage has announced that in forthcoming sugar harvests Cuba will be able to export up to 1 million tons of sugar in a month thanks to the development achieved by maritime terminals in bulk sugar shipments.

Lage made the statement at the first national meeting of agricultural-livestock and sugar industry journalists which opened on Friday in Villa Clara Province.

He added that the six terminals in the country were able to export 985,000 metric tons in March, a figure never before reached in Cuba. Lastly, Marcos Lage announced that the Ceiba Hueca terminal in Manzanillo is expected to begin operation in 1979, thereby guaranteeing the expected volumes of exports.

MEETING HELD IN PREPARATION FOR LABOR CONGRESS

FL152031Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] A meeting has been held in Havana City to report on the work and composition of organizing committees for the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC. The meeting was chaired by Jesus Montane, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its Department for Servicing Mass Organizations.

At the meeting CTC Second Secretary Agapito Figueroa noted the importance of support for the congress--which will be held 28 November-2 December 1978--from the mass organizations and state agencies. Figueroa also announced the principal tasks to be undertaken by the agencies and organizations which form the committees for the organizational process.

In closing the meeting, Jesus Montane emphasized the importance the party attaches to the 14th CTC Congress. He said that the cooperation and participation of mass organizations are necessary to guarantee that the congress is of the highest quality. Jesus Montane pointed out that close cooperation is necessary between each member of the organizing committees so that all aspects of the plan are fulfilled satisfactorily. After emphasizing that the best organization and success of the congress depend on the work that is done from now on, Montane said that the mass organizations will participate enthusiastically in activities of tribute to the congress. Lastly, he asked the representatives of state organizations to inform their directorate councils of the importance of the labor congress.

Roberto Veiga, PCC Central Committee member and CTC secretary general, and other leaders of the CTC and state organizations attended the meeting.

PEREZ HERRERO CLOSES FMC SEMINAR IN HAVANA

FL132055Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2004 GMT 13 May 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero has made the closing remarks at the national seminar of the Cuban Women's Federation--FMC--which has held for 5 days at the Fe del Valle FMC cadre school in Havana.

Perez Herrero said that the party leadership attached the greatest importance to the success of this week's FMC national seminar on ideological orientation, production and social work. He added that the reason for the existence and justification of the FMC lies precisely in the rank-and-file organizations, since that is where the resolutions of the Second FMC Congress are implemented.

Perez Herrero said that the FMC must undertake systematic ideological work with women, help them with the guidance they should give their children, and instill in them the principles of socialist moral standards and a patriotic and internationalist spirit. In his closing remarks at the FMC national seminar, Antonio Perez Herrero noted the importance of ideological work, saying that guidelines in this area of work are no different for women since our party's ideological policy is a single policy.

He said that the FMC orientation and propaganda groups, which have more than 130,000 comrade women, are valuable instruments for performing ideological work. He added that the FMC friendship brigades, of which there are more than 20,000, represent an expression of the internationalist education which the women's organization is conducting.

Lastly, Antonio Perez Herrero referred to the importance of training women so that they can get good jobs. He also hailed the work done by FMC members in cooperatives, which has resulted in 33 percent of cooperative workers being women, thereby responding to the call of the revolution.

JORGE RISQUET MEETS WITH NUJOMA, REAFFIRMS SUPPORT

FL161107Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Jorge Risquet has met in Luanda with Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization SWAPO. Risquet conveyed a message of condolence from the Cuban party and government as a result of the recent attack by South African forces against Namibian refugee camps located in Angola which resulted in more than 600 killed. At the same time, the Cuban leader reaffirmed the traditional solidarity and support which the Cuban people have maintained toward the Namibian people's just struggle for freedom and independence.

HAVANA CITES ANGOLAN DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE

FL161142Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola has declared that it is in no way involved in any movement by Zairian elements in armed insurrection against the government headed by President Mobutu Sese Seko. An official Angolan communique thus rejected accusations in this regard originating in Kinshasa, capital of Zaire.

The communique also recalls that the areas named as the scene of confrontations are not located on the border with Angola and that reports by the Zairian news agency itself give rise to the idea of internal uprisings of the population located in the Shaba region. The official Angolan communique adds that the population in eastern Angola is peacefully continuing its national reconstruction tasks and does not cease to offer fraternal assistance to the thousands of Zairian refugees who have found asylum in the national territory.

Meanwhile, reports from Zaire give contradictory versions of the situation, with some saying that fighting is continuing in the regions of Kolwezi and Mutshasha.

BRIEFS

CUBAN-USSR COOPERATION--The joint Cuban-Soviet plan for activities this year was ratified at an event held today in Moa, Holguin Province, as part of the fraternal emulation established between the specialist and technician collectives working in this developing mining-metallurgical zone. The emulation has 26 objectives in the spheres of nickel production, the capital renovation of the Commandante Pedro Soto Alva enterprise, the execution of the construction program of the mining-metallurgical plan, social benefit tasks for the community and support of the sugarcane harvest and agriculture. [Tex] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 78 FL]

VILLA CLARA COFFEE COOPERATIVE--The first Villa Clara coffee cooperative has been formed by 12 peasants from Hanabanilla. The new rural collective is named after Tomas Niebla and has 6 caballerias and patrimony and production equipment worth 48,700 pesos. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 78 FL]

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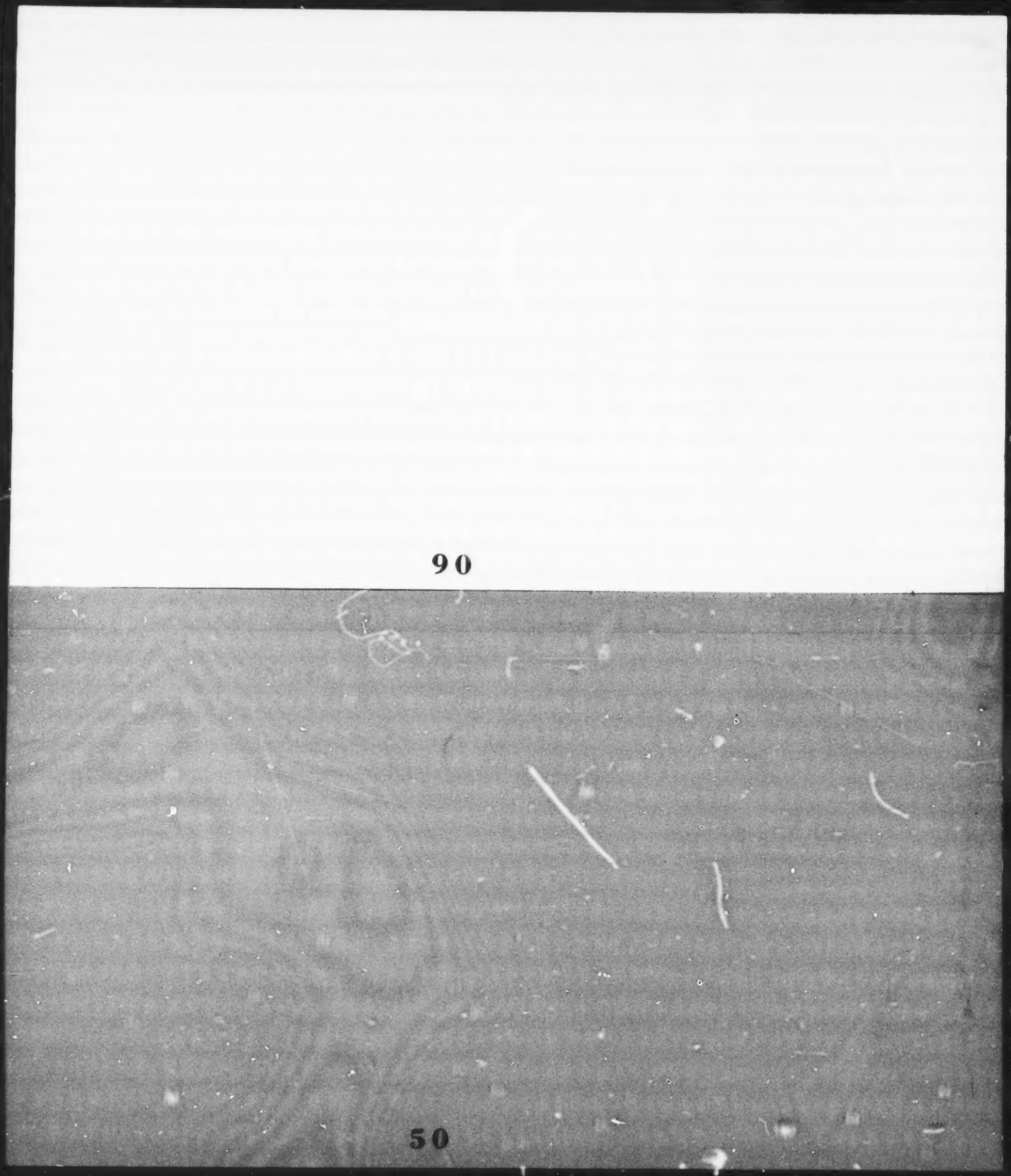
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